(b) if so, the when UPA Government propose to bring forward a suitable legislation in this regard in consultation with State Governments concerned?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) The National Water Policy was initially adopted by the National Water Resources Council in its Meeting held on 9th September, 1987. The Policy was subsequently reviewed in 2002 and the revised National Water Policy was adopted in 2002 by the National Water Resources Council in its meeting on 1st April, 2002. The National Water Policy addresses all issues related to water resources including management of ground water and river water.

In view of reports of declining ground water table in certain areas of the country, a "Model Bill to Regulate and Control the Development and Management of Ground Water" has been drafted and circulated to all the States. So far, 8 States/Union Territories (UTs) have enacted legislation. Action in this regard has already been initiated by 20 States/UTs. 7 States/ UTs have taken a view that such legislation is not necessary.

Participation of trade unions in mergers

*28. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision to make the Unions/Associations of employees and workers to be a party to merger/acquisitions of companies;

(b) if so, the number of cases where trade unions were consulted before merger/acquisitions; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) There is no provision in the Companies Act, 1956, specifically making Unions/Associations of employees and workers a party to mergers/ acquisitions of companies.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.